

Scottish Disability Equality Forum - Scotland's Elections 2007

The Scottish Disability Equality Forum works for the inclusion of disabled people in Scotland through the removal of barriers and the promotion of equal access for people affected by disability. It is a user-led body, guided by the concerns of its members and carries forward a proactive agenda to influence and monitor the development and implementation of legislation affecting people with disabilities.

We would like to see the following items high on the policymakers' agenda:

- Improved consultation with and involvement of disabled people and policymakers at both national and local level
- Commitment to take forward the work of the Disability Working Group and the recommendations of the Scottish Parliament's Equal Opportunities Committee
- Recognition of the work of Access Panels in Scotland and continued support for them at a local and national level
- Commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities have full and equal access to the built and natural environments
- Action to ensure that public bodies meet the requirements of the Disability Equality Duty and that public sector leaders fully understand and support equalities policies
- Work to ensure compliance with Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) which addresses access to goods and services and; provision of resources for those wishing to challenge service providers not meeting the requirements of the DDA
- Promotion of the independent living agenda to enable those with disabilities to have control over their lives and the proper support to realise their potential

- Redress of institutional discrimination in terms of improving educational achievement and tackling poorer life expectancy, resulting from a lack of support and access to proper health screening and treatment
- Addressing poverty issues for disabled people and their families, for example, commitment to ending fuel poverty for disabled people and recognising and making provision for the increased living costs of disability
- Increased provision of affordable, accessible housing both in the public and private sector to those affected by disability
- Action to ensure the provision of accessible information and advice for disabled people and access to independent advocacy
- Improved access to all forms of transport and support for community transport initiatives
- Mainstreaming of disability equality training and the promotion of disability awareness across all sectors
- Increased support for carers, recognition of the role they play and respite services to reduce the impact on their health of caring responsibilities.
- Protection from harassment and crime; disabled people are four times as likely as non-disabled people to have property stolen from them with the threat of violence and twice as likely to be burgled